June 11, 2004

Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association

Executive Notes

Your Provincial Executive Council met in St. John's on **June 11**. This issue of Executive Notes is intended to provide a summary of major decisions and discussions that occurred at this meeting.

For further information contact any member of Provincial Executive or the staff person as indicated.

Association Priorities
Provincial Executive reviewed the Priorities Document and was updated by Administrative Staff on various elements of the document including objectives, timelines and action updates. The five priorities are: negotiating a collective agreement; teacher accountability/assessment/professionalism; curriculum issues; quality of teachers' work life; and membership awareness.

For further information contact Fred Douglas, President, or Edward Hancock, Executive Director.

Collective Bargaining
The Provincial Executive discussed a report from the Negotiating Team concerning its consideration of the current collective bargaining environment. The President will be providing further information to the membership.

For further information contact Fred Douglas, President, or Lloyd Hobbs, Assistant Executive Director.

Video Conferencing
A presentation was made to Provincial Executive on the work of the Virtual Teacher Centre and the Centre for Distance Learning and Innovation in the area of video conferencing by Alex Hickey and Maurice Barry. The presentation involved video links with the CDLI office in Gander as well as two schools throughout the province. The Association will investigate the use of video conferencing in an effort to secure savings to the Association.

For further information contact Edward Hancock, Executive Director or Alex Hickey, Coordinator, Virtual Teacher Centre.

President's Report
The President updated the Provincial Executive on his activities since the April meeting. Besides his usual activities in his role as President, he also attended the Holocaust Memorial Services sponsored by the Jewish Congregation of Newfoundland and Labrador, the CAPTO Annual Meeting in New Brunswick, the CTF Accountability Conference in Ottawa, the School Administrators AGM and Conference in St. John's, and the CTF Affiliates Presidents' Meeting in Quebec.

The President has also been active in the media on the effects of teacher cuts on students, and participated in the release of the results of It's About Time: A Report on the Impact of Workload on Teachers and Students, at a news conference in early June.

He also made a presentation to the Janeway Telethon and has attended various banquets throughout the province in honour of retiring teachers.

For further information contact Fred Douglas, President.

Business from Standing Committees
TABLE OFFICERS

- Funding will be provided for the NLTA's share of the cost of operation of the Virtual Teacher Centre for 2004-05.
- The NLTA Electoral Committee for 2004-05 was appointed. They are as follows: Doreen Noseworthy, Holyrood (Chairperson), past Executive Member; Ken Kavanagh, Bell Island, past Executive Member; and Debra Sparkes Mercer, Carbonear, teacher and past Branch President.
- The NLTA will nominate Executive Director Edward Hancock for the position of Trustee on the CTF Trust Fund Board of Trustees and to the CTF Ad Hoc Committee for National Issues in Education.
- The NLTA will nominate Ann Shortall to the CTF Committee on Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian, Transgender and Two-Spirited Issues.
- The Provincial Executive will communicate to the Iron Ore Company of Canada its strongest objections to the unilateral action by the IOCC in drastically reducing the school board education grant in Labrador West, its request for immediate reinstatement of the grant to its 2003-04 level, and its request for an immediate meeting with IOCC representatives on this issue.
- The NLTA will contribute $1,000 towards the MUN Faculty of Education/Parks Canada Institute for Teacher Interns. This funding will be allocated from the Beginning Teacher Program Support within the PD budget.

For further information contact Fred Douglas, President, or Edward Hancock, Executive Director.

COMMITTEE ON EARLY CAREER TEACHERS
The President of the NLTA will write the Minister of Education to express concern re the loss of support to new teachers as programs such as the Teacher Induction Program, previously run through the school districts, are now compromised due to district restructuring, staffing, and transitioning. This letter will also reference the research as to the impact of such support on teacher retention and the implications for loss of early career teachers to the profession.

For further information contact Bill Chaisson, Chairperson, Committee on Early Career Teachers, Beverley Park, Professional Development Division, or Don Ash, Benefits and Economic Services Division.

PROFESSIONAL ISSUES IN TEACHING COMMITTEE

- The NLTA will change the Special Interest Council structure to move toward the establishment of three councils: Primary/Elementary, Intermediate, and High School, while allowing for the continued existence of specialized councils.
- Through the collective bargaining process the NLTA will explore the possibility of establishing a day designated as a common day for Special Interest Council professional development offerings.
- The policy on the NLTA scholarships to students will be amended so that the award will be based on the criteria used by the Department of Education for the selection of provincial scholarship recipients rather than on the scholarship

exam.

For further information contact Dana Burridge, Chairperson, Professional Issues in Teaching Committee, or Beverley Park René Wicks, Professional Development Division.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS AND SERVICES

- The recipient of the 2004 Special Recognition Award is Rudy Porter.
- The Membership Benefits and Services Committee was directed to explore and make
  recommendations on changes to current branch structure and operations.
- The model branch by-laws will be amended by adding two additional members on the branch executive – the substitute teacher and new teacher representatives.

For further information contact Winston Carter, Chairperson, Membership Benefits and Services Committee, or Stefanie Tuff, Benefits and Economic Services Division.

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE
The NLTA will establish an ad hoc committee to study Early Childhood Education, including issues such as pre-school, junior Kindergarten, registration age, full-time Kindergarten day, and KinderStart. The committee will prepare a report with a series of recommendations and guidelines which could guide the Association in establishing an informed position on these issues.

For further information contact Elizabeth Murphy, Chair, Curriculum Committee, or René Wicks, Professional Development Division.

EQUITY ISSUES IN EDUCATION COMMITTEE
The new guidelines/application process for the NLTA Equity Issues Program for students was approved by Provincial Executive.

For further information contact Fred Wood, Chair, Equity Issues in Education Committee or Beverley Park, Professional Development Division.

Discussion Topics
The following topics were reviewed by Provincial Executive for follow-up or future discussion: CRTs; school-based committees; the NLTA pocket calendar; school holiday schedule; public sector strike; and wellness strategy.

For further information contact Fred Douglas, President or Edward Hancock, Executive Director.

Other Business

- Dana Burridge was elected as the Table Officer for the 2004-05 year to replace Past President Winston Carter, who is completing his term of office on the Executive.
  For further information contact Fred Douglas, President or Edward Hancock, Executive Director.
- The following were named as NLTA Group Insurance Trustees for 2004-05: Bill Chaisson, Chairperson, Corner Brook; Linda Baillet, Carmanville; Darryn Cramm, Labrador City; Bill Day, Retired Teachers' Association, Clarenville; Dean Ingram, Provincial Executive, Swift Current; Melanie Kavanagh, Bell Island; and Tina Ryan, Trout River.

For further information contact Fred Douglas, President or Edward Hancock, Executive Director.

Branch Contact Assignments: 2004-05	
Fred Douglas	All Branches*
Marilyn Bennett	Bell Island, Marconi, St. John's Centre, Southern Shore
Dana Burridge	Aurora, Baie Verte Peninsula, Belle Mer, Deer Lake, Green Bay, Taylor's Brook
Art Callahan	Conception Bay Centre, Conception Bay South, St. Mary's Bay, Waterford Valley
Bill Chaisson	Humber, Ingornachoix, Long Range, Table Mountain
Lily Cole	Burin-Marystown, Granforline, Rushoon-Terrenceville
Dean Ingram	Clarenbridge, Landfall, Hamilton Sound, Trinity-Deadman's Bay, Trinity, T.B.
Kevin Foley	Churchill Falls, Coastal Labrador South, Labrador West, Lake Melville, Nutak Labradorimi
Edward Moore	Baccalieu, Bay Roberts, Carbonear, Placentia
Elizabeth Murphy	Bremco, Northern Light, Notre Dame, St. Brendan's
Sean Noah	Bay d'Espoir, Belleoram-Wreck Cove, Exploits Valley, Fogo Island, Ganova, Harton, Seagaulher
Fred Wood	Appalachia, Burgeo, Port aux Basques, Rameaux, Upper Trinity South
* The President (and, in his absence, the Vice-President) will also be an alternate for visitation to any branch if the scheduled contact person is unavailable. For further information contact Fred Douglas, President or Edward Hancock, Executive Director.	

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Provincial Executive is scheduled for **October 15 and 16** in St. John's. For further information contact Fred Douglas, President or Edward Hancock, Executive Director.